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Ex-Marine Asks Soviet Citizenship

MOSCOW, Oct. 31 (UPI) Lee Harvey Oswald, 20, a recently discharged United States Marine from Fort Worth, Tex., disclosed today that he had taken steps to renounce his American citizenship and become a Soviet citizen. He said the reasons for his move were "purely political."

"I will never return to the United States for any reason," Oswald told a reporter in his room at Moscow's Hotel Metropole.

The young Texan declined to give any details on his background or the reasons for his decision. But a U. S. Embassy official said Oswald had told him he arrived in Moscow on Oct. 15 immediately after his discharge from the Marine Corps and had no regular job in the United States.

Oswald was the third American to have sought to renounce his American citizenship and stay in Russia in recent months.

The first, sheetmetal worker Nichols Petrulli, of Valley Stream, N. Y., changed his mind after applying for Soviet citizenship and returned home to Long Island.

The other is Robert Edward Webster, a plastic technician of Cleveland, Ohio, who came to the Soviet Union in connection with the U. S. fair in Moscow this summer.

"I cannot make any statement until after I receive my Soviet citizenship," Oswald said. "It might jeopardize my position—I mean the Soviet authorities might not want me to say anything."

The U. S. Embassy official said that he had advised Oswald to wait for the Soviet reply to his application for citizenship before giving up his American passport. He said Oswald would retain his full U. S. citizenship until he formally signed a document of renunciation and before he officially accepted Soviet citizenship.

[Oswald's mother, who lives in Forth Worth, could not be reached for comment, the Associated Press said.

[His sister-in-law in Fort Worth said: "He said he wanted to travel a lot and talked about going to Cuba."

[An acquaintance said Oswald was a youth who would rather stay in his room than make friends. She said Oswald seemed to be intelligent but showed little inclination for attending high school.]

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